LAPTOP OR KEYBOARD SIMULATING PET BED

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a Continuation-in-Part of U.S. Utility patent application Ser. No. 14/969,827, filed on Dec. 15, 2015, and incorporated herein by reference.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Not Applicable.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to animal husbandry, and more particularly to a pet bed.

DISCUSSION OF RELATED ART

Pet owners, and owners of cats in particular, know that upon sitting down at a computer their pet frequently desires to lay directly on the computer keyboard. While pet owners frequently attribute this behavior to a desire for affection, or conversely to a desire to annoy the pet owner, more likely the draw of the keyboard has more to do with warmth and proximity to interesting activity.

Since people with pets sitting at a computer keyboard typically need to use the keyboard, there is a need for a device that simulates a keyboard but provides for greater warmth and for interesting sound, light and tactile effects to divert their pet. When positioned close to an actual computer keyboard, such a needed device would draw the pet away therefrom and would provide for many hours of warmth, comfort and entertainment of the pet away from the owner's actual computer activities. Such a device would be relatively simple to manufacture and use, and would be safe for use around both pets and children. The present invention accomplishes these objectives.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present device is a bed for a pet that comprises a computer keyboard simulating enclosure having at least a top side, a bottom side adapted for laying on a horizontal surface, and a peripheral edge. The top side includes a plurality of simulated computer keys and may further include a fabric portion. A heating element is fixed within the enclosure and is adapted to heat at least the top side of the enclosure. A power conduit traversing the enclosure is adapted for connecting the heating element with a power source.

Preferably the bed further includes a pressure-activated switch between the power source and the heating element and fixed within the enclosure. The pressure-activated switch is adapted for closing when the weight of the pet is introduced to the top side of the enclosure to activate the heating element.

In one embodiment, the bed further includes a keyboard sound simulating device within the enclosure that, when active by the weight of the pet, produces a simulated keyboard typing sound. The bed may further include an illumination device within the enclosure that, when activated by the weight of the pet, produces at least one visible light within the enclosure. A vibration device may be further included within the enclosure that, when active by the weight of the pet, introduces a vibration to the enclosure.

In one embodiment, the bed includes a simulated laptop display projecting away from a rear side of the enclosure. Such a simulated laptop display may include the illumination device. Multiple such switches may be included at different areas of the bed, such that the pet triggers different sound, light, or tactile effects when shifting his weight on the bed.

The present invention is a device that simulates a keyboard or laptop but provides for greater warmth and for interesting sound, light and tactile effects. When positioned close to an actual computer keyboard, the present invention draws the pet away therefrom and provides for many hours of warmth, comfort and entertainment of the pet away from the owner's actual computer activities. The present invention is simple to manufacture and use, and is safe for use around both pets and children. Other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following more detailed description, taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, which illustrate, by way of example, the principles of the invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a front perspective view of one embodiment of the invention;

FIG. **2** is a front perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the invention;

FIG. **3** is a top plan view of another alternate embodiment of the invention; and

FIG. **4** is a schematic diagram of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Illustrative embodiments of the invention are described below. The following explanation provides specific details for a thorough understanding of and enabling description for these embodiments. One skilled in the art will understand that the invention may be practiced without such details. In other instances, well-known structures and functions have not been shown or described in detail to avoid unnecessarily obscuring the description of the embodiments.

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, throughout the description and the claims, the words "comprise," "comprising," and the like are to be construed in an inclusive sense as opposed to an exclusive or exhaustive sense; that is to say, in the sense of "including, but not limited to." Words using the singular or plural number also include the plural or singular number respectively. Additionally, the words "herein," "above," "below" and words of similar import, when used in this application, shall refer to this application as a whole and not to any particular portions of this application. When the claims use the word "or" in reference to a list of two or more items, that word covers all of the following interpretations of the word: any of the items in the list, all of the items in the list and any combination of the items in the list. When the word "each" is used to refer to an element that was previously introduced as being at least one in number, the word "each" does not necessarily imply a plurality of the elements, but can also mean a singular element.

FIGS. **1-3** illustrate a bed **10** for a pet **20** resting on a substantially horizontal surface **15**. The bed **10** comprises at least a computer keyboard simulating enclosure **30** having at